

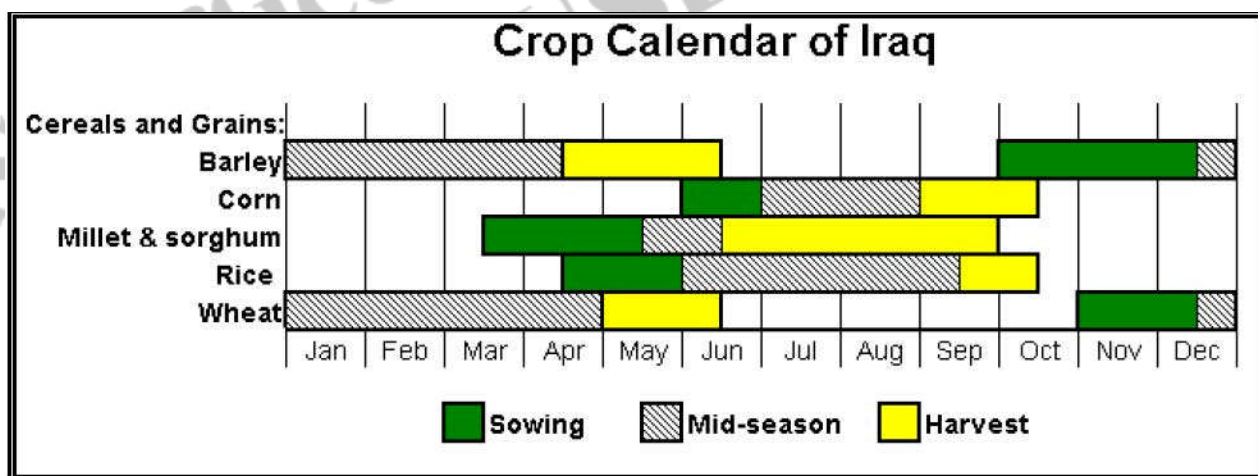
FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



**September Report – Week 2**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most. Lower production is also expected in the central and southern governorates.
2. AFWA weather data from August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 showed that the most northern region of Iraq near the border of Turkey and Iran received a slight amount of precipitation (Figure 1). Temperatures for the central and southern governorates remain well above normal. The two week forecast calls for no precipitation and above normal temperatures.
3. AWiFS derived normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) for the months of July and August were compared using a change detection analysis. The analysis showed that the majority of summer crop was nearing peak towards the end of August. The rice crop in An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah showed significant increases in NDVI between July and August. Other regions of crop progression were noted in Wasit, Babil, At Ta'min, Karbala and Babil (Figure 2). Signs of harvest were also apparent in regions of Arbil and Ninawa (Figure 3).



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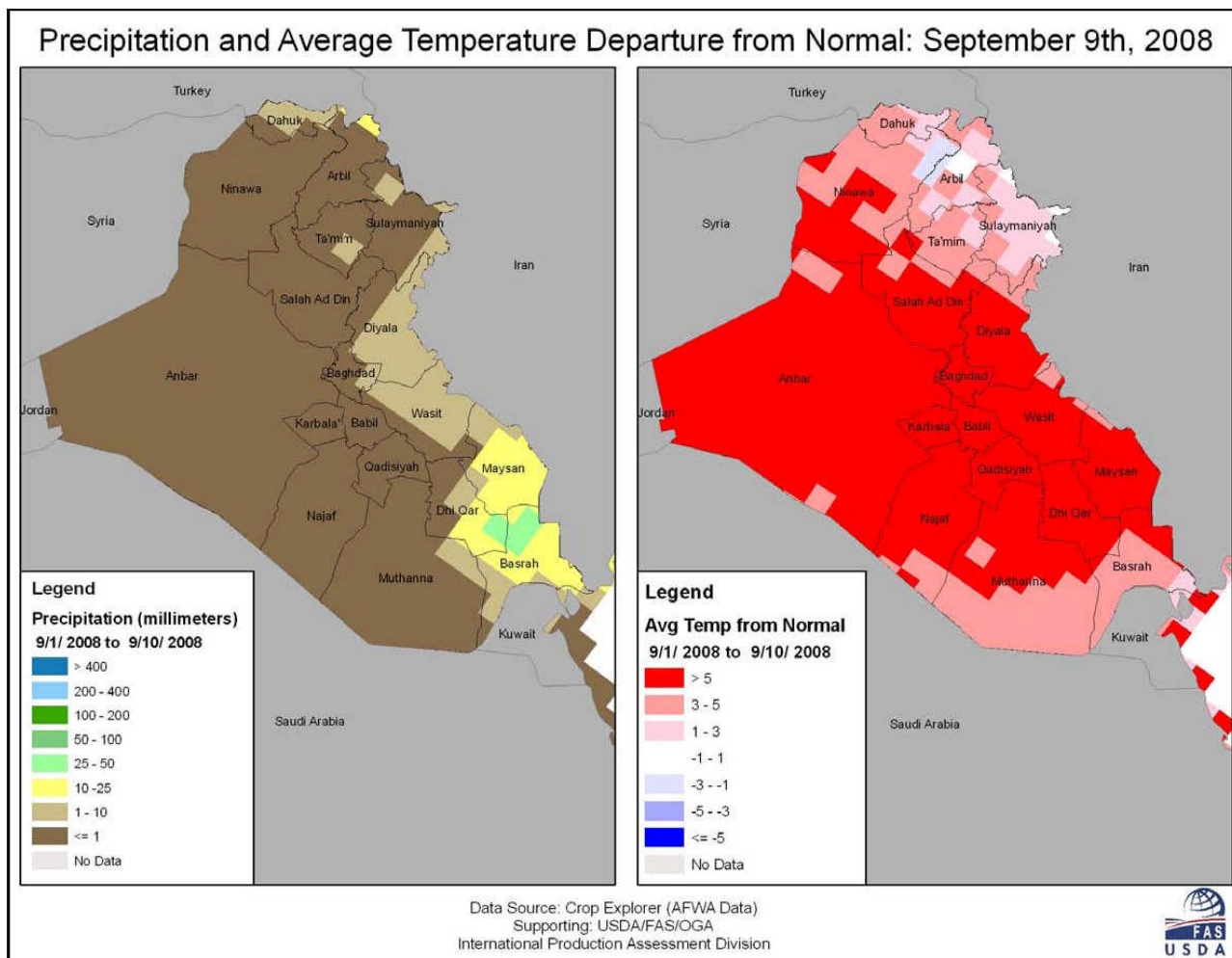


Figure 1: Decadal agro-meteorological data from August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Precipitation and Temperature.

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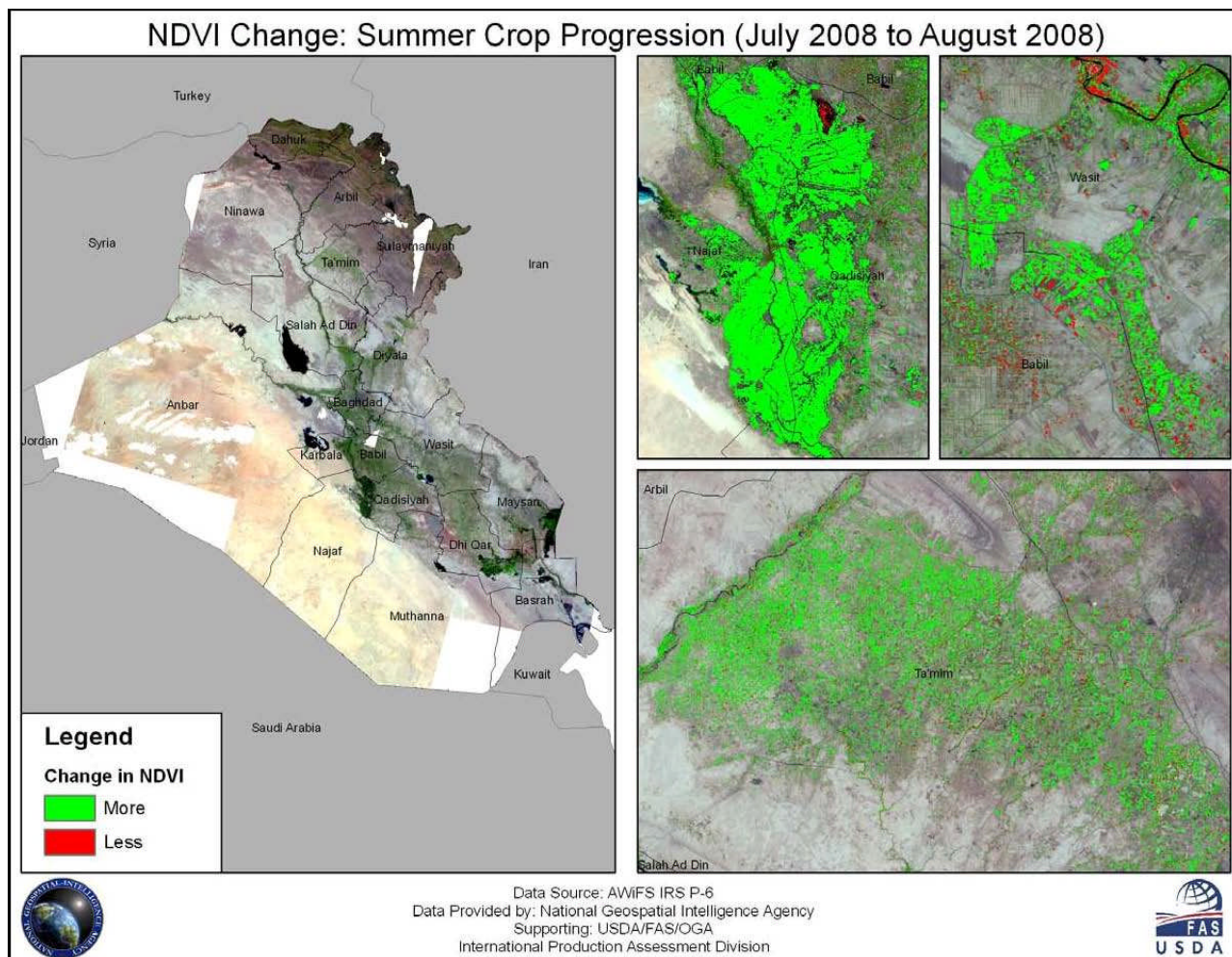


Figure 2: Change in NDVI between July 2008 and August 2008. Illustration depicts regions of summer crop progression and harvest.

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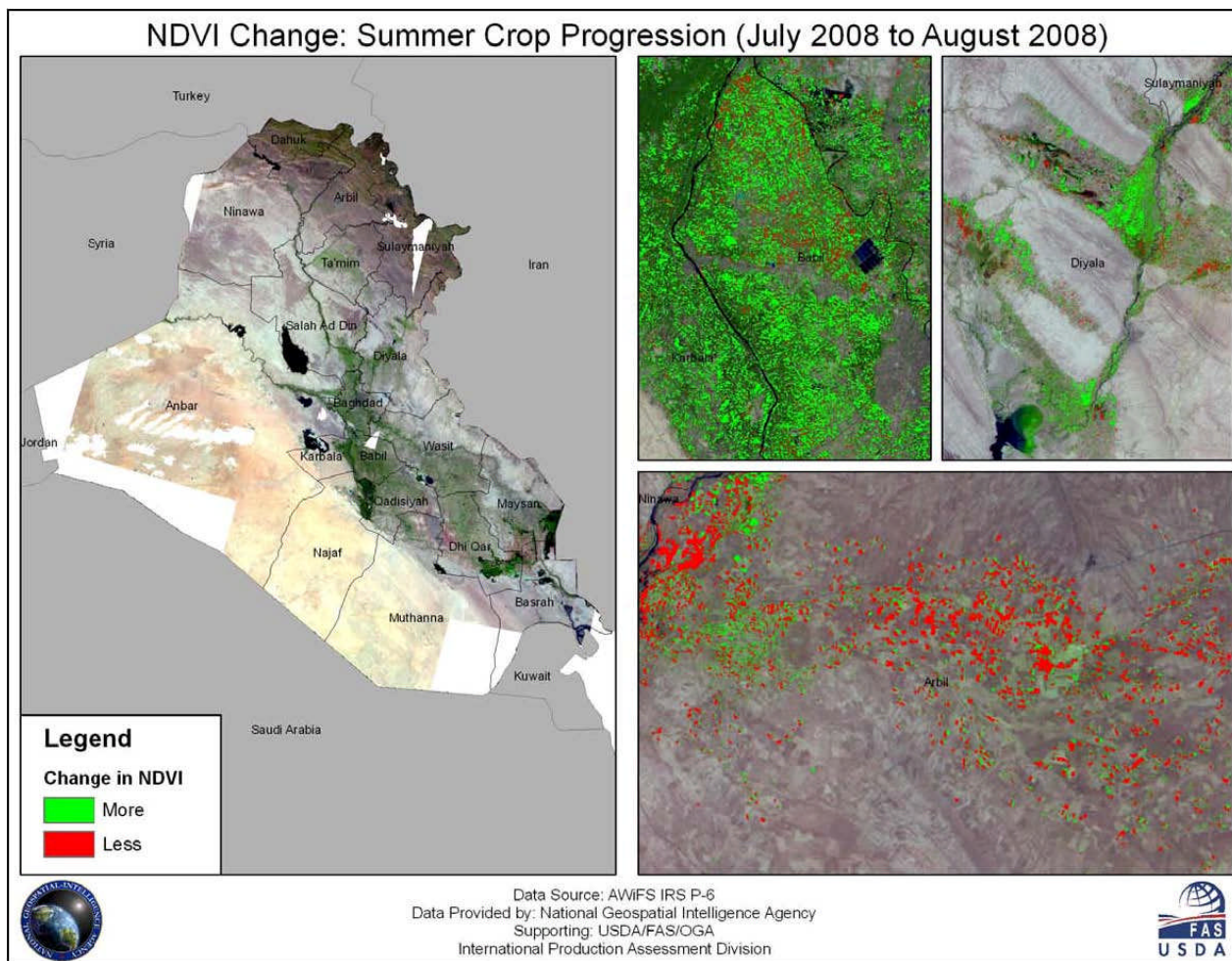


Figure 3: in NDVI between July 2008 and August 2008. Illustration depicts regions of summer crop progression and harvest.